

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

DATE: August 17, 2006

CALLED TO ORDER: 5:02 p.m.

ADJOURNED: 7:21 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

ATTENDING MEMBERS

Lonnell Conley, Chairman
Patrice Abduallah
Jim Bradford
Ginny Cain
Dane Mahern
Angela Mansfield
Mary Moriarty Adams
Mike Speedy

ABSENT MEMBERS

Scott Keller

AGENDA

PROPOSAL NO. 492, 2005 - authorizes speed limit reductions throughout the Smithfield subdivision (District 25)

"Do Pass"

Vote: 7-0

PROPOSAL NO. 200, 2006 - reappoints Herb Bazemore to the Marion County Stormwater Management Technical Advisory Committee

"Postpone" until September 7, 2006

Vote: 8-0

PROPOSAL NO. 345, 2006 - amends the Revised Code, traffic operating restrictions, to regulate the use of any engine, compression, dynamic braking device, or mechanical exhaust device (often times referred to as a "Jake brake" or "jake braking")

"Postpone" until September 7, 2006

Vote: 8-0

BUDGET HEARING

Director's Overview
Policy and Planning
Indianapolis Fleet Services
Operations

- Solid Waste
- Maintenance Services

Engineering
Capital Improvement Program

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

The Public Works Committee of the City-County Council met on Thursday, August 17, 2006. Chairman Lonnell Conley called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m. with the following members present: Patrice Abdullah, Jim Bradford, Ginny Cain, Dane Mahern and Angela Mansfield. Mary Moriarty Adams and Mike Speedy arrived shortly thereafter. Scott Keller was absent. Councillor Lincoln Plowman was also in attendance. Chief Financial Officer Bart Brown represented Council staff.

PROPOSAL NO. 492, 2005 - authorizes speed limit reductions throughout the Smithfield subdivision (District 25)

Councillor Plowman stated that this proposal has been before the Committee previously, but at the time, the City did not own the streets because the community was still being developed. State law designates a 30 miles per hour (mph) speed limit in residential areas but allows for a reduction to lower that speed limit to 20 mph where necessary. He said that the neighborhood would like to have the speed limit lowered because of the number of homes with children.

[Clerk's Note: Councillor Speedy arrived at 5:05 p.m.]

Jay Erickson, Smithfield Community Board Member, stated that two-thirds of the families in this neighborhood have children, and the pool is located on the main street in the subdivision. Although no accidents have occurred to date, the community would like a lower speed limit to minimize the risk of such.

Councillor Mansfield said that even if the speed limit is reduced, there will still be people who ignore the signs and exceed the limits. She asked who is doing the speeding and if the community is a cut-through for traffic from other major roads. Mr. Erickson said that there are a few residents who are guilty of exceeding the limits, but there are also guests, pizza delivery drivers and some cut-through traffic. He said that the subdivision is located on the corner of Five Points and County Line Roads, with an exit also on to Combs. Many drivers cut through off of Combs.

Councillor Plowman stated that the homeowners' association hired off-duty public safety officers to write tickets and enforce a 30 mph speed limit, but because the City did not yet own the streets, they were not enforceable.

Nathan Sheets, project manager for the Department of Public Works (DPW), stated that the typical speed limit for subdivisions is 30 mph, but the Council can reduce that limit to 20 mph. He said that the concern is with regards to enforcement and people still not

really slowing down just because of a sign. He said that lowering the limit, however, will not cause any problem for traffic flow at this location.

Chairman Conley asked how the new speed limit will be enforced. Councillor Plowman said that the homeowners' association will again hire off-duty law enforcement officers, once the new limit is in force. He said the problem is that 30 mph is too high in any area with a lot of children.

Councillor Mansfield asked if the neighborhood association has considered speed humps on the street that leads to the pool. Mr. Erickson stated that speed humps are not cost effective, and can hamper snow plows in the winter, as well as emergency vehicles. He said that the primary green space where the pool is located is on the main stretch of road in the subdivision, and the association will again hire off-duty police officers to patrol the area for the safety of residents.

Councillor Bradford said that if speed humps are put in, the City bears that cost. As it stands, this homeowners' association is willing to hire part-time law enforcement to enforce the new limit and they also do their own snow plowing so that the City does not bear that cost either. He said if the neighborhood is willing to take care and pay for this problem, it is a win-win situation for the City. He moved to send Proposal No. 492, 2005 to the full Council with a "Do Pass" recommendation.

Councillor Speedy asked how many lots are located in this subdivision. Mr. Erickson said that there are between 320 and 350 lots. Councillor Speedy asked if dues are collected from homeowners. Mr. Erickson said that annual dues are collected. Councillor Speedy asked how often part-time law enforcement will be hired. Mr. Erickson said that enforcement officers will be hired maybe two or three times a week during peak summer months and then maybe only one or two times a month during the winter months, when less children are outside playing and the pool is closed. Councillor Speedy said that he wanted to consider if the homeowners' association could afford to hire the extra enforcement, and it seems that they are able. He asked what the staff's position is on this change in speed limit. Mr. Sheets said that design standards for subdivisions are designed to meet the 30 mph limit, but DPW is neutral on this issue, as it will not cause any traffic problems. Councillor Speedy said that without enforcement, it might become more of a safety issue because of a false sense of security.

Councillor Mansfield seconded Councillor Bradford's motion to send Proposal No. 492, 2005 to the full Council with a "Do Pass" recommendation. The motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

PROPOSAL NO. 200, 2006 - reappoints Herb Bazemore to the Marion County Stormwater Management Technical Advisory Committee

Chairman Conley said that when the agenda for this meeting was originated, Mr. Bazemore told the clerk he could attend the meeting. However, Mr. Bazemore called

the office yesterday and said that he had been called out of town with his job and would not be able to make it to the meeting after all. He said that Mr. Bazemore seems willing to serve, but has not been able to attend any meetings to be reappointed. He asked what the Committee's feelings are regarding this appointment.

Councillor Mahern said that this item has been on the agenda numerous times, and Mr. Bazemore has yet to show up. He said that perhaps the Committee should not reappoint him at this time and instead consider him again in the future when he has more time available.

[Clerk's Note: Councillor Moriarty Adams arrived at 5:10 p.m.]

Chairman Conley said that Mr. Bazemore seems to be sincere in his interest to serve in this capacity, and actually attended an advisory committee meeting this week. He asked if anyone knows of Mr. Bazemore's circumstances that keep him from attending Committee hearings to be reappointed.

Councillor Bradford said that committees have often handled reappointments and passed them through to the Council without the individual appearing, because they had appeared for their initial appointment and the committee was familiar with them. He said that he is not sure he remembers Mr. Bazemore, but he would not be opposed to moving it forward, because there are those on the Council that keep track of appointees' attendance records.

Councillor Abdullah stated that he would like to meet Mr. Bazemore and is not sure who he is. He added that this advisory committee has not been active until just recently, and if Mr. Bazemore attended a meeting just this week, maybe the Committee could give him another opportunity to introduce himself.

Councillor Mansfield ask what the staff's position is on this issue. Tim Method, Environmental Coordinator for DPW, stated that Mr. Bazemore did attend last night's meeting and his experience would serve well on the committee.

Councillor Bradford said that he is willing to give Mr. Bazemore another opportunity to appear before the Committee. Councillor Mahern said that he would be supportive of postponing it one more time, but is concerned about appointing someone the Committee does not know and prolonging this appointment further. Chairman Conley agreed and said that Mr. Bazemore seems to want to serve, and therefore, he would be open to postponing one more time to allow Mr. Bazemore to appear.

Councillor Bradford moved, seconded by Councillor Cain, to "Postpone" Proposal No. 200, 2006 until September 7, 2006. The motion carried by a vote of 8-0.

PROPOSAL NO. 345, 2006 - amends the Revised Code, traffic operating restrictions, to regulate the use of any engine, compression, dynamic braking device, or mechanical exhaust device (often times referred to as a "Jake brake" or "jake braking")

Chairman Conley said that Councillor Earl Salisbury was going to get the Committee more information on this proposal, but does not yet have that ready to present.

Councillor Bradford moved, seconded by Councillor Moriarty Adams, to "Postpone" Proposal No. 345, 2006 until September 7, 2006. The motion carried by a vote of 8-0.

BUDGET HEARING

Director's Overview (Department of Public Works, City Budget Book, pgs. 1-20)

Kumar Menon, Director of DPW, introduced senior members of his staff and presented a brief overview of 2006 Accomplishments and 2007 Goals. [Clerk's Note: A copy of this presentation is on file in the Council office with the original set of these minutes.] He said that the department has adopted the themes of Environment, Education and Economics to ensure all citizens are engaged in the department's efforts. He highlighted a few of the 2006 accomplishments of the department: 1) completing negotiations with the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for a combined sewer overflow (CSO) long-term control plan, which involves a \$1.8 billion investment in clean water over the next 20 years; 2) nearing completion of the 38th Street project by the end of this year; and 3) increased minority and women owned business enterprise (MBE/WBE) involvement by about 20 to 30%. He highlighted goals for 2007, including: 1) coordination of an Indianapolis "green" initiative to make the City an environmentally healthy community and a leader in responsible energy policies and conserving natural resources; 2) staying involved in neighborhood events; and 3) continuing partnerships with other departments and outside entities.

Mr. Menon said that among the many challenges facing the department are dwindling transportation funds from the State and increased prices in asphalt, fuel, steel and energy. He said that these are things they have no control over that impact them directly. Mr. Menon recognized several staff members and union representatives in attendance and thanked them for all their hard work. Without these individuals, the department could not accomplish all that they do.

Policy and Planning (Department of Public Works, pgs. 9-11)

Mr. Menon stated that the Policy and Planning Division bridges all other departments and divisions within DPW in order to see the big picture. Environmentally, the department is committed to the new Indy Green program and hopes to have the first draft ready to present by November. He added that they will continue to try and reduce costs by researching and implementing energy efficient projects. Educationally, the division will continue to provide a learning environment through the expansion of

partnership and internship opportunities. Economically, the division will continue trying to identify new sources of revenue to handle the challenges ahead.

Chairman Conley commended Mr. Menon on knowing his staff and union representatives well and understanding the importance of these relationships.

Councillor Mahern commended Mr. Menon on their success in the area of MBE/WBE participation and asked what extended efforts will be used to continue increasing such participation. Mr. Menon said that any time an MBE/WBE partner exceeds their agreements, he feels it is important to acknowledge such publicly. He said that they continue to seek out new businesses looking to move into the area, as well as mentoring partnerships to help expand and grow existing firms.

Councillor Mahern asked if Mr. Menon has any ideas to combat the challenge of dwindling transportation funds. Mr. Menon said that it is still early yet, but they are putting together a strategy and will present it to the Council and ask for their feedback.

Councillor Mahern said that great efforts have been made in the area of air quality. He asked what the next step with regards to this effort is. Mr. Menon said that it is a continuous push, and they are making efforts to regionalize the issue in order to address it more aggressively. He added that Kno-Zone will become a year-round program to further push the initiative.

Councillor Abdullallah said that he recently received a letter saying that the fine particle air quality standard of PM 2.5 was being looked at with the suggestion to change the standard before the City could even get that standard into effect. Mr. Menon said that unfunded federal mandates are very hard on his department. He said that he knows he has the right people on staff to address these changes as they come. These employees stay abreast of all changes, and the department's desire is to not just meet standards, but exceed them.

Councillor Bradford congratulated Mr. Menon on his appointment as director and said that it is well-earned. He said that many federal mandates are open to interpretation and some can be challenged. He said that he is glad to see the division focusing on staying involved with neighborhood events. The majority of concerns his constituents have are with regard to streets and sidewalks. He said that federal money for studies is great, but during these studies, neighbors bring ideas and suggestions, and then there is no money to fund the initiatives and follow through with the studies. He said that he would prefer that such studies not be undertaken until a funding source can be identified for the end result. Even if the projects are paid for by bonds, that still has to eventually be paid. He added that he is also concerned that DPW is curbing their efforts to cut the grass along the Monon trail. He said that venues like this attract business to the City, and a lot of people see these areas.

Councillor Cain said that she hopes DPW will keep the Council on the front end of their meetings with neighborhoods. Mr. Menon said that they would definitely like input and even direction from Councillors on neighborhood involvement.

Councillor Mahern said that he noticed in the presentation that they have cut customer service response time to four hours. He asked what it used to be. Mr. Menon said that when they first started looking at response times, it was 24 to 48 hours. They have tried to give staff the tools and authority they need to get things accomplished in order to cut down on this response time. Councillor Mahern said that it must be working, as he has received fewer calls from constituents regarding unresponsiveness.

Councillor Abdullallah said that he has great concern for older citizens living in neighborhoods with abandoned houses and overgrown weeds. Mr. Menon said that they are partnering with the Departments of Metropolitan Development (DMD) and Public Safety (DPS) on this issue. He said that they have gone from one contractor for weeds to 13 contractors, in order to handle more properties per day. He said if there are specific areas that Councillors would like the department to focus on, they would appreciate the input. Councillor Abdullallah said that he has received numerous complaints from the Haughville area.

Councillor Mansfield asked if the increase in asphalt costs have resulted in cutting back on street repavings this year. Mr. Menon said any commodity with a petroleum base has seen a significant cost increase, and this does indeed have a rippling effect. He said that the department is committed to getting through as many projects as they can, and has moved some money from other areas to help with this increase.

Councillor Mansfield asked how sanitary sewers are prioritized. Mr. Menon said that this will be addressed in the Engineering Division portion of tonight's presentation.

Councillor Cain asked how to get a project on the list for repaving. Mr. Menon said that the Councillors should contact Mickey Rogers, Council Liaison for DPW, to get projects added to the list. Councillor Cain asked who constituents should call with high weeds complaints. Mr. Menon said that they should call the Mayor's Action Center. Councillor Mansfield said that the Health and Hospital Corporation can also help with this issue.

Engineering (Capital Improvement Program) (Department of Public Works, pgs. 12-14)

Carlton Ray, administrator of the Engineering Division for DPW, stated that the Engineering Division plans, develops and constructs capital improvement projects to improve safety and traffic flow, as well as providing engineering services for effective wastewater and stormwater management. Environmentally, the division commits to the design of a new interplant sewer between the Belmont and Southport Advanced Wastewater Treatment (AWT) facilities; a new interceptor in northwest Marion County and a Belmont North relief sewer. Educationally, they intend to continue with at least

three public meetings per project to educate and inform citizens. Economically, the division hopes to invigorate downtown development with the new Indianapolis Cultural Trail, while reconnecting neighborhoods and linking cultural districts.

Chairman Conley asked if the Cultural Trail is partly funded by private matches. Mr. Ray said that this is correct.

Councillor Mansfield said that the area she is concerned about with regard to failing septs and sewers is probably further northwest than the new Belmont North relief sewer. Mr. Ray said that the area she indicated to him will actually be connected to that new Belmont plant. Councillor Mansfield asked how these projects are prioritized. Mr. Ray said that sewage overflow in a manhole or home is a number one priority, with river overflows a close second.

Councillor Mahern said that with transportation funding options dwindling, he is glad to see the City looking at other forms of transportation for people in the community to use, as is seen in their efforts with biking trails and lanes and improved IndyGo routes.

Operations (Solid Waste & Maintenance) (Department of Public Works, pgs. 15-17)

Pat Holdsworth, administrator of the Operations Division of DPW, recognized staff members in attendance and stated that his division maintains all City infrastructure, as well as any emergency support and coordination. In response to earlier questions, the division has revamped the weeds maintenance system cutting response time down from months to 20 days. He said that the goal is to get response time down to 11 days. Environmentally, the division has helped neighbors take ownership of their community by helping to implement nine neighborhood clean-ups per week. Educationally, the division seeks input from citizens to help educate themselves, such as with the parking meter pilot program that has, as yet, received overwhelming support. Economically, the division is looking at GPS automated vehicle location equipment to better allocate resources and to aid in safety.

Councillor Mahern applauded the division for looking into GPS devices, and said that they can be used for so much.

Councillor Mansfield said that she would like to publicly thank employee Shawn Brock for helping with a trash removal issue in her district. She said that there is now a noticeable improvement.

Councillor Bradford said that the entire department does a great job and works so closely with the public. He commended the barricade personnel for their professionalism during a recent event in Broad Ripple.

Tim Method, Environmental Coordinator for DPW, stated that the division is also focusing on using technology to get the best out of current equipment, raising public

awareness to prevent contamination of streams, and negotiating the most cost-effective contract renewals with United Water, as their contract expires next year.

Indianapolis Fleet Services (Department of Public Works, pgs. 18-20)

Pat Carroll, administrator of the Fleet Services Division for DPW, recognized staff members in attendance and stated that the division will continue to provide the City's fleet users with safe and reliable vehicles and equipment. Environmentally, the division will maintain vehicles and service customers in the most environmentally conscious way. Educationally, the division will continue to train employees for safe use of all equipment and vehicles. Economically, with fuel and maintenance costs increasing, the division is also concerned with the need to replace an aging fleet. However, they continue to provide an overall fleet availability rate of 95% and a public safety rate above 98% by operating based on accepted and reasonable fleet management practices.

[Clerk's Note: Councillor Cain left at 6:25 p.m.]

Michael Williams, Chief Financial Officer for DPW, referred to pages 2-8 of the Department of Public Works portion of the City budget book. The total proposed DPW City budget for 2007 is \$159,861,744, which is an increase of \$5.19 million or 3.4% over the 2006 budget. He said that this includes contractual and mandatory increases. Including bond proceeds, federal aid, grant dollars and other revenue sources, the overall proposed DPW budget is \$352,029,953. Full-time equivalent (FTE) positions will increase by 11 from 2006. This is mostly due to the shift of Fleet Services from the Department of Administration to DPW. Mr. Williams explained the revenues outlined on pages 6-8 of the budget book. The largest increase is seen in charges, due to increased sewer and stormwater fees.

[Clerk's Note: Councillor Speedy left at 6:30 p.m.]

Mr. Williams reviewed the budget by Character and in comparison with previous years, outlining the differences with and without capital projects. He said that Character 01 shows a net increase of 6.9%, mostly due to insurance costs and raises. He said that there is actually an error that was found in this character that will need to be changed before passage. That change will reduce the budget.

Bart Brown, Chief Financial Officer for the Council, asked where this error is located. Mr. Williams said that it is reflected in weekly salaries. Jeff Seidenstein, Deputy Controller, stated that errors will be addressed with amendments during the review and analysis phase before the proposals are sent to the full Council for action.

Mr. Williams said that Character 02 reflects a net increase of 30.8%, mostly due to fuel prices, repair parts, and additional money being added for salt. Character 03 shows a 5% net increase, with the bulk being in management contracts and information

technology. Character 04 will realize a net decrease of 0.5% mostly due to data processing equipment that was purchased this year and will not need to be included, along with some savings in fleet and vehicle leases.

Chairman Conley asked what the overall change in the budget is. Mr. Williams said that the overall budget proposed reflects an increase of approximately 3.4%, or almost \$5.2 million.

Councillor Mahern said that he wants to make it clear that most of that increase is due to increasing costs beyond the department's control, such as fuel, asphalt, and steel; as well as adding the Division of Fleet Services into the department. He said that the department is very frugal with their dollars and is not spending money frivolously. He said that \$6 to \$8 million is attributable to fuel costs alone. He added that many of the new projects they are undertaking are supported by fee increases and not taken from general tax revenue.

Councillor Moriarty Adams commended the DPW staff on all they do. She said that the staff is extremely responsive to the needs of citizens in every area.

Councillor Abdullah asked why personnel services has increased so much. Mr. Williams said that they have had trouble retaining personnel, because employees could make more money in the private sector after being trained through their City position. He said that instead of hiring consultants and contractors, some of these positions were brought in-house as FTEs.

Mr. Brown said that Human Resources did an extensive salary study in 2003, and he thought this inequity and retention problem was taken care of back then. He asked if the Council was briefed on this increase and knew about it. Chairman Conley stated that the Committee had been briefed and was expecting it. Mr. Menon explained that many members of the engineering staff were leaving because new companies were coming in and poaching the City's employees. The division was losing a great deal of institutional knowledge. Increasing these salaries and making them full-time positions will help to retain employees.

Councillor Bradford said that DPW has an exceptional staff, and many capital improvement project developers in the City will go to government personnel first to find contract managers for special projects, because they have the experience and knowledge needed to succeed. Chairman Conley agreed that this is often a problem, and it is a testament to the administration for training their employees well.

Glenn Pratt, citizen, applauded United Water for their internship with Arlington High School students, giving them a sense of where they can go and what they can do. He said that this is a great program and a good investment. He said that the turnover problem also causes concerns about commitments made. He said that promises are made by City personnel to the neighborhoods. Then, when there is a personnel

change, often those promises are not binding. He said that he would like to see consent decrees issued to insure that future managers keep the commitments made.

There being no further business, and upon motion duly made, the meeting was adjourned at 7:21 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lonnell Conley, Chairman

LC/ag